

VENTURING MAGAZINE

Venturing and the Magazine by Craig Murray

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The Venturing Magazine is looking for a new editor and website manager! The first generation of the magazine began under Jim Winters in 2001. When Jim was looking for someone to take it over in 2011, Joe Garrett offered and asked me to help. Our first issue was in January of 2012. We have had five good years, but with our URL expiring in April, the March 2017 issue will be the last issue unless someone offers to take over.

Super-Activities

Venturing, for me, has been my life blood since 1992. Yes, Venturing officially began in 1998, but I became an Explorer Advisor in '92. I was actually practicing many of the principles that would become the backbone of the Venturing program, such as promoting super-activities and letting the youth lead our meetings and events.

In 1992, I had the opportunity to attend the Brazil International Jamboree as a scout leader joining a large US contingent. It was a wonderful experience and from it I learned a great deal about leading a contingent. I also met a New Zealand scouter who told me about the 1995 New Zealand Venture. A Venture is similar to a jamboree, but only for scouts in the age group 14-17. As I had been an exchange student to New Zealand as a high school student, living with a family whose boys were Queen Scouts, I was excited about the opportunity of returning.

With my new knowledge of leading a contingent, I began 1993 with the attitude that I was going to lead a contingent to the January 1995 New Zealand Venture. After many months of recruiting, I had six Explorers who wanted to help plan the trip. The experience for all was great and the cost of travel, touring, and the Venture was \$2,000 each. We rented a van for our touring and stayed with other scouts along the way which kept the cost down and made our adventure much more meaningful.

International experiences became a part of what the Post/Crew did for the next decade. We attended the 1997 Canadian National Jamboree, 2000 Australian Venture and the 2002 International Scout Hiking Expedition in Austria. Between international activities, we had great local super-activities, including a tall-ship cruise to Catalina Island.

In 2005, my Crew and I met Joe Garrett and Venturing Crew 360 through a whitewater rafting trek that his Crew was offering. Several Crews from all over the US met up near Moab, Utah, and we ran the Westwater Canyon section of the Colorado River. On that trek, Kodiak Leadership Skills training was



taught. By the end of the trek, Joe and I had become fast friends, and since I was a trained Kodiak course director, I offered to be the course director for future Kodiak Treks. Our crews continued to trek together, running Kodiak and Kodiak-X Courses from 2005 through 2010, and during that time we saw the development of valuable life skills and leadership in many young adults. I will recall these years as the best of my scouting career. We have run rivers in Oregon, California, Utah, Montana, and Idaho during those glory days of the Kodiak Leadership Skills Program. Hundreds of young adults and their adult advisors have joined us and enjoyed the scenery and whitewater of such rivers as the Deschutes, Salmon, Klamath, Flathead, and Colorado Rivers.

Websites

In 2002 when I attended the Powder Horn course, I was asked to list ticket (post-coursework goal) items that I would like to accomplish. One of mine was to write a website called the "Venturing Notebook." I still maintain that notebook on a website today (www.sageventure.com/venturing) thanks to helpful input over the years from many scouters.



In 2005, BSA asked me to create a Kodiak website that would describe what Kodiak was about and list all the courses that Crew and Councils were offering across the country. Kodiak was originally a one-week leadership course offered to Venturers during a high adventure super-activity. When Kodiak changed to Kodiak Challenge in 2011, the website was no longer needed after the high adventure component and cooperation among multiple Crews was de-emphasized so it was discontinued.

I used to manage the National Venturing Youth Cabinet website and when the Venturing Division had anything important to share, they would contact me with new articles and announcements. Usually within minutes I would have these posted. My response was always, "sorry it took so long", for which I would get the response, "ha, ha." Those were fun times. I miss the Venturing Division, as I believe they provided tremendous support for the program that so many of us love and it was rewarding to be part of something that was so successful and growing fast.

Artwork

I enjoy creating artwork, and the VOA patch that BSA is using is a design I developed in 2006. In 2009, I was asked by the National Venturing Cabinet Advisor at the time to develop a similar patch for the Cabinet. In 2012, BSA issued official patches identical to the ones I had developed years earlier. I called someone in charge of Venturing at the National office and was told that the Cabinet Youth had developed them. I just laughed to myself and told them they had a nice design. I also designed a Venturing 10th and 15th Year Anniversary Program Identity patch, and all the Corps of Discovery pocket patches depicting scenes from the Lewis and Clark Expedition. In any case, I can proudly say that "I left my mark on Venturing!"



I recently requested that a few more VOA patches without any reference to the level (like the one to the far right) be made so that the patch would be useful for District VOAs. If you are interested, please contact me because I do not expect them to last long.